

Claims:

1. A method for managing a plurality of network elements, comprising:
receiving a plurality of quality of service (QoS) alarms from the plurality of alarms;
determining an event flow rate wherein an event flow rate is the rate that a specific type
of alarm is received;
determining which of the plurality of network elements is generating the greatest
number alarms; and
instructing the network element generating the greatest number of alarms to stop
sending the alarms.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the network element does not transmit the
specified types of alarms for a period of 600 seconds.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein only a specific threshold alarm not transmitted
for the period.

4. The method of claim 1 where a type of alarm is not transmitted for the period.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the type is the threshold types of alarms.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the type is the QoS types of alarms.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein a network element that has been suspended from
2 transmitting alarms is allowed to start re-transmitting the suspended type of alarm if the event
3 flow has dropped below a lower threshold value.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the lower threshold value is equal to 3.

1 9. An element management system, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a store for storing computer instructions that define operational logic of the element
4 management system, the computer instructions for prompting the element management system
5 to issue a signal to a network element to cause it to stop sending QoS signals.

1 10. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending only
3 a specific type of threshold crossing alarm.

1 11. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending all
3 threshold crossing alerts.

1 12. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending all
3 QoS alarms.

1 13. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a plurality of signals to the network element to instruct it to stop
3 sending alarms, wherein the instructions to stop transmitting are, in the following order:

4 specified types of threshold alarms;

5 all threshold alarms;

6 all QoS alarms; and

7 all alarms.

1 14. The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions
2 prompt the processor to send a plurality of signals to the network element to instruct it to stop
3 sending alarms, wherein instructions prompt the element management system to instruct a
4 second network element to stop sending threshold crossing alerts prior to sending an instruction
5 to stop transmitting all QoS alarms.